

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-25 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 9-11 are objected to; claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102; and claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 10-11 are amended, claim 9 is canceled, and new claims 12-25 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 3 can be found in the specification as filed, for example, at page 26, line 30 to page 27, line 9; support for the remaining claim amendments can be found in the original claims. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable. By this Amendment, the limitations of claim 9 are introduced into each of independent claims 1, 2, and 3.

I. Claim Objection

Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because the limitation "width in the range of $C(1 \pm 30\%)$, where C is a predetermined value" is allegedly unclear. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended to clarify that the widths are within the range $C(1 \pm 30\%)$, which indicates that errors in the width are distributed within $\pm 30\%$ from the predetermined value C. This is described in the specification as filed, for example, at page 26, line 30 to page 27, line 9.

Accordingly, the objection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under §102 and §103

Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Takahashi.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takahashi in view of Ryohei.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Without admitting the propriety of the rejections, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, each of independent claims 1-3 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claim 9. The remaining claims are amended accordingly, and new claims are added corresponding to the original dependent claims to depend from amended claims 2 and 3.

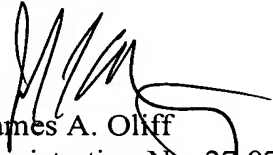
Accordingly, the rejections are overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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